PANS Eaglet

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Merry Christmas – A Look at Poland's 2001 Christmas "Kolednicy" Coins

By Steven Bieda

In 2001 the Bank of Poland issued a couple of commemorative coins highlighting a Polish folk tradition of "Kolednicy." This is a tradition in which people dressed in traditional costumes go at Christmas time from house to house around their village or neighborhood with a mock-up of a large star held aloft on a rod and sing Polish carols.

The tradition, which is known not only in Poland but in other areas of Europe as well, is sometimes referred to as "Star Singers" or "Epiphany Singers." Traditionally, it was limited to boys and adolescent males, but nowadays, when it is performed, it is by young (and not so young) people of both genders walking from house to house with a large representation of a star held aloft on a rod and often wearing crowns and dressed in clothes to resemble the Three Kings or Three Wise Men.

A non-circulating 20 Zlotych coin features the carolers on the reverse side. This coin measures 38.61 mm. It depicts the carolers, star aloft and set in a wooded winter background. The inscription "Kolednicy," appears on the coin. The obverse contains the date 2001 and the 20 Zlotych denomination along with a representation of an elaborate castle representing the kingdom of God, and within that castle a small representation of the nativity scene. There is also a small but distinct Polish White Eagle with crown (Poland's national symbol) located at the entrance of the castle. The inscription Republic of Poland "RZECZPOSPOLITA

POLSKA" crests along the upper portion of the coin design.

The coin is composed of .925 fine silver coin and has an oxidized or antique-finish and weighs 28.28 grams. While it carries the denomination of 20 Zlotych, it is clearly not meant for circulation and is a collector only issue. One of the unique attributes of this coin is a Zirconia stone Star embedded on the coin's surface that appears above the carolers. It has a reported mintage of 55,000.

Poland also issued a 2 Zlotych "Nordic Gold" composition coin with the same theme of "Kolednicy" in 2001, but this coin was issued for circulation. The reverse of this coin features the carolers holding the star on a rod, a representation of a castle, along with a depiction of Krampus. Krampus is somewhat of a scary figure, this large horned anthropomorphic figure is said to accompany Saint Nicholas on the night of December 5 – "Krampus Night" which is immediately before the Feast of Saint Nicholas. While Saint Nicholas rewards good children, Krampus punishes badly behaved ones with birch rods. The obverse of the 2 Zlotych coin has the traditional Polish White Eagle with crown, date and denomination. This coin was designed by Robert Kotowicz and Ewa Tyc-Karpinska. It measures 27 mm and had a reported mintage of 600,000.

Both coins can be found with some searching of dealer stocks, and on auction sites such as eBay with some moderate searching. The silver coin seems to commonly market around the $70 to $90 dollar range, while the more numerous 2 Zlotych coin usually trades for under five dollars. Both are attractive coins, featuring a beloved holiday tradition. With this holiday season in mind, it is comforting to enjoy the traditions of times past -one that harkens to a Christmas holiday tradition not only in Poland, but in much of Europe as well.

► Spot prices as of 27 Nov. 2024		.
Gold:	$ 2,630.00/troy ounce	.
Silver:	$ 30.50/troy ounce	.
Copper:	$ 4.07/pound	.
Platinum:	$ 928.00/troy ounce	.
Palladium:	$ 978.00/troy ounce	.
$US-Złoty exchange: 4.07		.

Have you been able to join us on the web? Try: www.pans-club.org. Or, on Facebook? If not, please go to Facebook, find PANS, and see what events are coming up for our society.

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Once again, come to the meetings and win

Your PANS meets once a month, and is generous in raffling off one Polish coin per meeting. Why not attend a meeting, and see if you can add something to your growing collection?

Send in your finds.

Have you found any Polish coins of note, perhaps squirreled away in some dealer's stock of foreign coins? If you have found a hidden treasure, or one hiding in plain sight, e-mail Mark a photo and a brief write-up of how you came upon it. The PANS members will most likely be interested in hearing about it.

Congratulations to Steve Bieda, here being awarded for two prize-winning exhibits at the recent Michigan State Numismatic Society fall coin show.

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Polish American Numismatic Society & Windsor Coin Club Annual International Coin Show
COIN SHOW
Sunday, February 16, 2025
10 am – 4 pm
American Polish Cultural Center
2975 East Maple Road, Troy, Michigan 48083
Please Use Main Entrance on Dequindre Road
FREE ADMISSION
BUY – SELL - TRADE
COINS - CURRENCY - MEDALS
TOKENS - BOOKS - SUPPLIES
Over 65 US and World Coin Dealer Tables
NO SALES TAX on Coins & Bullion in Michigan
Contact: Brett Irick @ 313-207-3562
Les Rosik @ 248-909-2670
POLISH AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
pans-club.org
WINDSOR COIN CLUB
windsorcoinclub.com

Join Our Club

We meet on the first Saturday of the month at 12:00 PM at the American Polish Cultural Center located at 2975 East Maple Road (15 Mile Road) at Dequindre Road in Troy, Michigan. Visit the PANS Club website at www.pans-club.org for details. We currently have 10 meetings per year (August through May) with 2 months off during the summer. The Polish American Numismatic Society also plans a Christmas Oplatek Dinner during the Holiday Season. Meeting agendas include business matters and informative lectures from renowned guest speakers on topics including error and variety coins, significant coins in Polish history, Hamtramck scrip, coin photography. Open and lively member discussions about US and Polish numismatics are encouraged. Of course, the meeting would not be complete without coffee and delicious Polish pastries. The Polish American Numismatic Society hosts two very successful public coin show at the American Polish Cultural Center. Our primary show always takes place on the third Sunday of February. PANS also hosts a second show in August. Shows have been co-hosted with other clubs in the region. If you have any interest in numismatics, please attend a meeting and sign up as a member. PANS dues are only $20.00 per year or $30 per year if you would like the PANS Eaglet newsletter sent to your email on a quarterly basis. PANS Club Membership is a great way to meet collectors with similar interests and knowledgeable dealers willing to share their experiences in a hobby that we all enjoy. To become a member-in-good-standing, plan to attend a minimum of 5 meetings per year and perform club-related duties at PANS Club sponsored Coin Shows.

Membership Application *I hereby make application for membership in the Polish American Numismatic Society, subject to the rules and regulations set forth in the Constitution and By-laws*.

SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE/ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

RECOMMENDED BY: _____

DATE ACCEPTED: _____

FIRST YEAR DUES PAID: _____

I COLLECT: _____

Attend a meeting or mail to: PANS, PO BOX 80515, ROCHESTER, MI 48308